

July / August 2014

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Phoenix

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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PHOENIX



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Phoenix's credit rating highest of six largest U.S. cities

Standard & Poor's and Moody's recently affirmed the city's strong credit rating at AA+ (S&P) and Aa1 (Moody's), with a stable outlook.

In its report, S&P cited Phoenix's "very strong budget flexibility and fund balances, reflecting conservative management practices and prudent planning; very strong liquidity; Phoenix's broad and diverse economy; and very strong management conditions, including proactive budget-cutting efforts in response to budget

gaps to maintain very strong fund balances."

Moody's noted Phoenix's "solid fiscal position bolstered by strong fiscal management, and a large economy that is gradually improving based on historically strong population growth, affordable cost of living, and low business costs."

Phoenix's credit rating remains the highest of the six largest U.S. cities. A high credit rating allows the city to save money and borrow at lower interest rates.

Highest S&P Credit Rating of 6 Largest U.S. Cities



Volunteer program helps neighbors in need

Do you have a few extra hours each month and are looking for a way to give back? The city's Neighborhood Services Department needs residents to donate time or money to its Volunteer Assistance Program.



A member of a local church group participated in a cleanup organized by the Volunteer Assistance Program.

Residents may seek help from the Volunteer Assistance Program if they have code violations and are not able to bring the violation into compliance due to financial or physical reasons. These cases are referred to the program by a city inspector.

Groups, churches or companies interested in volunteering their time, sponsoring the removal of dead trees or donating in-kind services for tree removal, landscaping and yard maintenance are encouraged to contact Volunteer Assistance Coordinator Lee Staten at 602-495-0564 or lee.staten@phoenix.gov.

Sign up for fall recreation classes

Registration opens Aug. 2 for the Parks and Recreation Department's full schedule of fall special interest classes and programs as well as a full schedule of sports programs.

Classes feature experienced instructors and are a great way to get active, develop new skills and have fun. Phoenix's youth sports programs are the perfect introduction to organized sports in fun, semi-competitive environment.

Register online at phoenix.gov/parks.

Holiday Trash and Recycling Collection

The Phoenix Public Works Department will be working to collect your trash and recycling as regularly scheduled on the following holiday:

• Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1

The North Gateway and 27th Avenue transfer station will be closed on both holidays.

To better serve you, always place your containers at least four feet apart and clear of obstructions, such as light poles, parked cars and mail boxes. For more information, call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

Find out if your home is in a flood hazard area

Is your home in a flood hazard area? If so, you may want to consider purchasing flood insurance.

To find out if there is an elevation certificate on file for your property or to see if your property is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, visit the Street Transportation Department at City Hall, 200 W. Washington St., fifth floor, or call 602-262-4960.

In addition to flood insurance, other precautions include making a list of personal property, taking photos of your home to assist your insurance adjuster and keeping all important information in a safe place.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/streets/neighborhood-matters/floodplain-information.

New city website coming soon

An improved city website will launch this summer. The new phoenix.gov site will feature a web-responsive design, meaning it will be easily viewable on any Internet-enabled device such as a desktop computer, tablet or smartphone.

Other features include a reorganized homepage, quick links to information most requested by customers, social media integration and improved search functionality.

If you have questions or comments about the new website, please submit them to web.pio@phoenix.gov.

Your window to homeownership

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program offers eligible buyers \$15,000 in down payment and closing cost assistance for the purchase of newly renovated home in the city of Phoenix.



To learn more, call 602-262-6602 or visit phoenix.gov/nsphome.

Check out MACH1 at Burton Barr Central Library

Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., offers science, technology, engineering, arts and math programs at MACH1, located on the library's fourth floor.

The special space for makers, artists, crafters and hackers offers a full slate of fun and exciting programs for all ages, including video game design, coding, video editing, science, astrobology, robotics and more!

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/teens and click on "MACH" in "Links for You."

Step back in time with free Orpheum Theatre tour

Are you a history buff fascinated with Arizona's past? Take a step back in time at the Orpheum Theatre during a free public tour.

Learn about the historic venue's storied past as the docents lead you through the ornate halls highlighting its lavish décor of Spanish baroque architecture.

Tours will be held at noon and 1 p.m. on the following Tuesdays: July 22, Aug. 5 and Aug. 19. No RSVP required, meet the docents under the marquee at 203 W. Adams St., downtown Phoenix.

For more information about future tour dates, contact Patty Dunlap at patty.dunlap@phoenix.gov.

Head Start program still recruiting children

The Human Services Department's Head Start program is still recruiting children for the 2014-15 school year for the following districts:

Booker T. Washington Head Start (serving families living within the Phoenix Elementary School District); Deer Valley School District; Greater Phoenix Urban League Head Start (serving families living within the Phoenix, Pendergast, Laveen and Isaac elementary school districts); Roosevelt School District (Cesar Chavez, Kennedy, Martin Luther King Jr., and T.G. Barr elementary schools);



Washington School District (John Jacobs, Tumbleweed, Richard E. Miller, Esperanza, Alta Vista, Shaw Butte, Manzanita, Maryland, Mountain View, Sunset, Desert View and Arroyo elementary schools); and Wilson School District.

Families must meet federal income guidelines for family size, and children must be 3 or 4 years old to be eligible to enroll. Parents of children with special needs are encouraged to apply.

For more information, call 602-262-4040 or visit phoenix.gov/headstart.

City partners with AARP to improve literacy at Phoenix elementary schools

AARP Experience Corps, a nationally recognized and award-winning volunteer tutoring effort, is expanding to four Phoenix elementary school districts: Fowler, Tolleson, Phoenix and Riverside.

AARP will partner with Read On Phoenix, Mayor Greg Stanton's effort to get local students reading at grade level by third grade, to engage older volunteers to help improve literacy among kindergarteners through third graders in both small group and one-on-one tutoring sessions.

There is a critical need for such partnerships: only 64 percent of Arizona's fourth grade students read at basic grade level; those falling behind are disproportionately in low-income areas.

For information on how to become a volunteer visit readonphoenix.org or call 602-256-3246.

Early Bag Check makes summer airline travel easier for Sky Harbor passengers

If you are flying American, Southwest or US Airways, take advantage of a handy service called Early Bag Check.

With this service, you can check your bags before boarding the PHX Sky Train®. Drop off your luggage prior to parking at East Economy Parking or check your bag on Level 2 at the 44th Street PHX Sky Train® station before boarding.

The service is also now available at the Rental Car Center, eliminating the need for travelers to carry their bags aboard the terminal bus. For those

travelers who are flying out of Terminal 4, the PHX Sky Train® station at the southwest corner of 44th Street and Washington not only offers Early Bag Check, but is a convenient drop-off and pick-up location. Print your boarding passes at the station, check your bags, and take a five-minute ride to Terminal 4. It's quick and easy, making it ideal for those who want to avoid driving into the Airport.

The service is free, though airline bag fees apply.

For more information, visit skyharbor.com.



2014 Bulk Trash Pickup Schedule

Area	Placement Begins On	Collection Begins Week Of
1	Aug. 23, '14	Sep. 1, '14
2	Aug. 30, '14	Sep. 8, '14
3	Sep. 6, '14	Sep. 15, '14
4	Sep. 13, '14	Sep. 22, '14
5	Sep. 20, '14	Sep. 29, '14
6	Jun. 28, '14	Jul. 7, '14
	Sep. 27, '14	Oct. 6, '14
7	July 5, '14	July 14, '14
	Oct. 4, '14	Oct. 13, '14
8	July 12, '14	July 21, '14
	Oct. 11, '14	Oct. 20, '14
9	July 19, '14	July 28, '14
	Oct. 18, '14	Oct. 27, '14
10	July 26, '14	Aug. 4, '14
	Oct. 25, '14	Nov. 3, '14
11	Aug. 2, '14	Aug. 11, '14
	Nov. 1, '14	Nov. 10, '14
12	Aug. 9, '14	Aug. 18, '14
	Nov. 8, '14	Nov. 17, '14
13	Aug. 16, '14	Aug. 25, '14
	Nov. 15, '14	Nov. 24, '14

TO USE THIS SCHEDULE

- Locate your numbered area on the map.
- Find the area number on the schedule.
- Bulk trash must be placed out by 6 a.m. on the 'Collection Week Of' date.
- Placement is allowed only between your area's listed dates.
- If you have curbside collection of green containers, you should place your bulk trash curbside.
- If you have alley collection of large black containers, you should place your bulk trash in the alley.

Look at this map to see if your collection designation has changed.

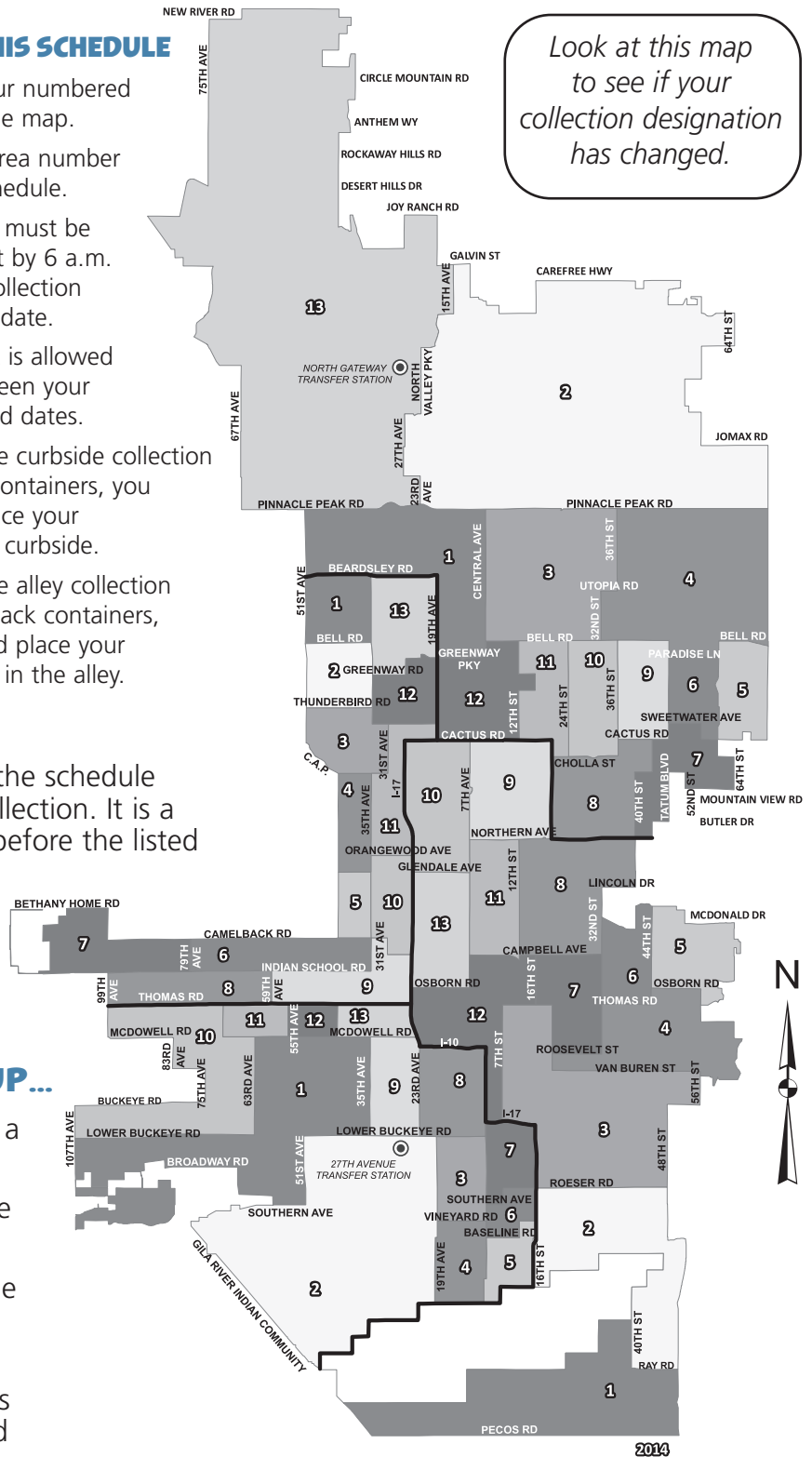
ONE WEEK RULE

City ordinance allows only nine days prior to the schedule collection week to place bulk trash out for collection. It is a violation of city ordinance to place trash out before the listed "Placement Begins On" date.

phoenix.gov/publicworks
 Email: pwserve@phoenix.gov
 602-262-7251 TTY 602-253-8796

BULK TRASH CREWS DO NOT PICK UP...

- More than 20 cubic yards per residence, or a pile the size of a SUV.
- Loose debris and litter. Please sweep or rake after collection if necessary.
- Loose grass, leaves, weeds, twigs and hedge clippings. These items must be bagged or boxed and securely tied to be collected.
- Household hazardous waste (HHW), such as antifreeze, pool chemicals, oil, batteries and paint.
- Community piles.
- Materials such as bricks, concrete, dirt, rocks, asphalt and roofing shingles/tiles.
- Construction materials in excess of 25 lbs. or over four feet long generated by a residence.
- Any construction material generated by a contractor.
- Metal or car parts in excess of 20 lbs. or over four feet long.
- Any type or size of tire.
- Glass such as windows, shower doors, patio doors, mirrors, fluorescent tubes, etc.
- Appliances that use refrigerants such as freezers, refrigerators, and air conditioners.



Need to take a load to the landfill?

Phoenix residents who pay solid waste fees can bring one load to dump at the transfer station, up to one ton per calendar month, at no charge.

Please remember, in order to receive your free load to dump at Phoenix transfer stations, you must bring a current city services bill showing refuse or solid waste fees, along with a photo I.D. that shows the same name or address on the bill.

For more information about transfer station fees, please call 602-262-7251 or visit phoenix.gov/publicworks.

Phoenix

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Find us online at phoenix.gov/PIONEWS/notesidx.html



City of Phoenix

Sign up for new solid waste programs

Phoenix Public Works now provides two programs that encourage waste diversion and more recycling.

"Save As You Reduce & Recycle" offers residents who currently have curbside trash pick-up service the option of downsizing to a medium trash container for a savings of \$3 a month on their solid waste services bill. Residents must be enrolled in the city's recycling program before they can sign up for the new program.

The "Green Organics Curbside Collection" program, also voluntary, is an ideal service for residents with weekly landscaping maintenance

and/or own large properties. This program provides a new large, tan container for such yard waste as grass clippings, twigs, branches and shrubs. Each tan container is \$5 month and will be collected weekly with your trash and/or recycling. This program is available to curbside and alley service customers; however, it will be offered in phases. Please visit phoenix.gov/publicworks to view the areas included in phase 1.

Sign-ups can be completed online at phoenix.gov/publicworks or you can call 602-262-7251 starting July 7.

If you'd like to learn more about the new solid waste programs or receive useful information about waste diversion and the Reimagine Phoenix initiative, please email: reimaginephoenix@phoenix.gov or call 602-262-7251.

Bag and tie trash and other important reminders

Please be sure to place your containers at the curb no later than 5:30 a.m. on pick-up day and allow 4 feet of space between each container. Containers may be placed at the curb prior to your scheduled collection day.

Also, please don't forget to bag and tie your trash and make sure the lids of your containers are completely closed. The heat can quickly change the chemistry in your trash, which may cause foul odors that lure insects and other pests.

For more information, including how to find out about your scheduled bulk trash collection, call 602-262-7251.



College Depot celebrates anniversary

Phoenix Public Library recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of College Depot, located on the second floor of Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

College Depot is a full-service college planning center that offers free one-on-one assistance, family consultation and workshops on all aspects of the college planning process, from financial aid to career exploration. The service is open to anyone seeking assistance with planning for college.

Since its opening in 2009, College Depot has helped more than 14,000 people plan for college. An additional 21,000 students and their families have benefitted from College Depot outreach programs.

For a complete list of workshops and events, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot.

Keep cool when using public transit

As temperatures climb the Phoenix Public Transit Department wants passengers to keep their "Personal Cool" and stay healthy during the summer.

Approximately 2,500 of Phoenix's nearly 4,000 bus stops have some sort of shade structure, but many locations cannot due to space limitations. Passengers can stay healthy and safe riding transit with these tips:

- Carry water: Stay healthy by drinking water throughout the day, and make sure children do too. You can bring drink containers with a hard plastic lid, such as water bottles, on the bus and light rail.
- Cover up: Lightweight long-sleeved shirts and long pants or skirts protect skin from the sun. Make sure babies in strollers are also covered.
- Carry portable shade: Bring a small umbrella or hat to create your own personal shade to stay cool walking to the bus stop.

For more information, call 602-262-7242 or visit phoenix.gov/publictransit.